

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A freestanding portable liquid filtration device comprising:

an upper housing having an upper end, an enclosed lower end and an upper housing sidewall, said upper housing interiorly defining an upper chamber, and said enclosed lower end of said upper housing at least one aperture extending there through;

5 a lower housing having an open top, an enclosed bottom and a lower housing sidewall, said lower housing interiorly defining a lower chamber, and said lower housing further having a lower housing sidewall with at least one discharge port disposed in a lower portion of said lower housing;

said enclosed lower end of said upper housing and said open top of said lower housing being configured for fitting a portion of said lower end of said upper housing into an upper portion of open  
10 top of said lower housing;

a filtration element, said filtration element having a first portion through which fluid passes into said filtration element, a second portion from which fluid is discharged from within said filtration element, and an end portion with an annular-shaped shoulder which extends circumferentially around said lower end portion;

15 wherein said filtration element is disposed with said first portion of said filtration element in fluid communication with said upper chamber, and with said lower end portion secured to one of said upper housing and said lower housing, and with said second portion of said filtration element in fluid communication with said lower chamber;

wherein liquid disposed within said upper chamber will flow through said first portion of said  
20 filtration element, through said filtration element, into said second portion of said filtration element and into said lower chamber in response to gravity, such that the liquid passes through said aperture in said lower portion of said upper chamber and into said lower chamber defined within said lower housing; and

a base having an upwardly facing opening for fitting said bottom of said lower housing  
25 within said upwardly facing opening.

2. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 1, further comprising a lid for covering said upper end of said upper chamber.
3. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 1, further comprising at least one rib which circumferentially extends exteriorly around said upper housing sidewall for deflecting liquid outward from said upper housing sidewall.
4. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 1, further comprising a pre-filtration device comprising a rim and a screen portion, wherein said rim is disposed on said upper end of said upper chamber with said screen portion extending downward into said upper chamber such that the liquid disposed within said screen portion will flow into said upper chamber.
5. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 1, wherein said upper housing and lower housing are formed of a transparent material, such that a level of the liquid in the upper and lower containers may be observed through the upper sidewall and the lower sidewall.
6. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 1, wherein said base includes a light source which illuminates of said lower housing.
7. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 6, wherein said light source is an ultraviolet light source.
8. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 5, further comprising a control means for controlling operation of said light source.

9. A freestanding portable liquid filtration device comprising:

an upper housing having an open upper end, an enclosed lower end and an upper housing sidewall, said upper housing interiorly defining an upper chamber, and said enclosed lower end of said upper housing at least one aperture extending there through;

5 a lower housing having an open top, an enclosed bottom and a lower housing sidewall, said lower housing interiorly defining a lower chamber, and said lower housing further having a lower housing sidewall with a discharge port disposed in a lower portion of said lower housing sidewall;

said enclosed lower end of said upper housing and said open top of said lower housing being configured for fitting said enclosed lower end within said top of said upper housing with an

10 interference fit, with said upper housing disposed atop said lower housing;

a filtration element, said filtration element having an exterior portion through which fluid passes into said filtration element, an interior portion from which fluid is discharged from within said filtration element, a lower end portion with an annular-shaped shoulder which extends circumferentially around said lower end portion;

15 wherein said filtration element is disposed within said upper chamber, adjacent to said aperture in said enclosed lower end of said upper housing, and with said lower end portion of said filtration element extending through said aperture in said enclosed lower end of said upper housing and into said lower housing;

a seal disposed between said annular shoulder of said filtration element and said lower end of  
20 said upper housing to sealingly engage there between in response to said lower end portion of said filtration element being threadingly secured to a fastener disposed beneath said enclosed lower end of said upper housing;

wherein liquid disposed within said upper chamber will flow through said exterior portion of said filtration element, through said filtration element, into said interior portion of said filtration  
25 element and then into said lower chamber in response to gravity;

a control valve extending within said discharge port, secured to said lower housing sidewall, and operable for controlling fluid flow from within said lower chamber; and

a base having an upwardly facing opening for fitting said bottom of said lower housing within said upwardly facing opening in an interference fit.

10. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 9, further comprising a lid which covers said open upper end of said upper chamber.
11. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 9, further comprising at least one rib which circumferentially extends exteriorly around said upper housing sidewall for deflecting liquid outward from said upper housing sidewall.
12. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 9, further comprising a pre-filtration device comprising a rim and a screen portion, wherein said rim is disposed in said open upper end of said upper chamber with said screen portion extending downward into said chamber such that the liquid disposed within said screen portion will flow into said upper chamber.
13. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 9, wherein said upper housing and lower housing are formed of a transparent material, such that a level of the liquid in the upper and lower containers may be observed through the upper sidewall and the lower sidewall.
14. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 9, wherein said base includes a light source which illuminates said lower housing.
15. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 14, wherein said light source is an ultraviolet light source.
16. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 12, further comprising a control means for controlling operation of said light source.

17. A freestanding portable liquid filtration device comprising:

an upper housing having an open upper end, an enclosed lower end and an upper housing sidewall, said upper housing sidewall having a plurality of circumferentially extending upper housing ribs which outwardly extending from an exterior of said upper housing sidewall, said upper housing interiorly defining an upper chamber, and said enclosed lower end of said upper housing having at least one aperture extending there through and at least one lateral protuberance exteriorly extending from said enclosed lower end of said upper housing;

a lower housing having an open top, an enclosed bottom and a lower housing sidewall, said lower housing interiorly defining a lower chamber, said open top defining a lower housing rim at a terminal end of said lower housing sidewall, and said lower housing sidewall further having a plurality of circumferentially extending lower housing ribs which outwardly extend from said lower housing sidewall and a discharge port disposed in a lower portion of said lower housing sidewall, and said enclosed bottom having at least one exterior protuberance which laterally extends from said enclosed bottom;

said enclosed lower end of said upper housing and said open top of said lower housing being configured for fitting said enclosed lower end of said upper housing and said at least one lateral protuberance within said top of said lower housing with an interference fit, with said upper housing disposed atop said lower housing with a lowermost one of said circumferentially extending upper ribs extending laterally outward of said lower housing rim;

a filtration element having an exterior portion through which fluid passes into said filtration element, an interior portion from which fluid is discharged from within said filtration element, a protuberant lower end portion with external threads, and an annular-shaped shoulder which extends circumferentially around said protuberant lower end portion;

wherein said filtration element is disposed to extend through said at least one aperture in said lower end of said upper housing, with said protuberant lower end portions threadingly secured to a fastener disposed beneath said enclosed lower end of said upper housing;

a seal disposed between said annular shoulder of said filtration element and said lower end of said upper housing to sealingly engage there between in response to said protuberant lower end portion of said filtration element being threadingly secured to said fastener disposed beneath said

30 enclosed lower end of said upper housing;

wherein said upper chamber is in fluid communication with said exterior portion of said filtration element, and said interior portion of said filtration element is in fluid communication with said lower chamber, such that a liquid disposed within said upper chamber will flow through said exterior portion of said filtration elements, through said filtration element, into said interior portion

35 of said filtration element and then into said lower chamber;

a control valve secured in said discharge port, and operable for controlling fluid flow from within said lower chamber;

a base having an upwardly facing opening which defines a base rim at an uppermost, terminal end portion of said base, and said upwardly facing opening further having an interiorly disposed,  
40 horizontally extending profile which has an oval shape, and said upwardly facing opening being sized for fitting said enclosed bottom and said at least one exterior protuberance of said enclosed bottom of said lower housing with an interference fit to secure said lower housing within said upwardly facing opening of said base, and with said lower housing disposed atop said base with a lowermost one of said circumferentially extending lower ribs extending laterally outward of said  
45 base rim; and

a light source which illuminates at least one of said upper housing and said lower housing;

18. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 17, wherein said light source comprises an ultraviolet light source.

19. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 18, further comprising a pre-filtration device comprising a rim and a screen portion, wherein said rim is disposed in said open end of said upper chamber with said screen portion extending downward into said chamber such that the liquid disposed within said screen portion will flow into said upper chamber.

20. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 19, further comprising a lid which is secured in said open upper end of said upper housing.

21. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 20, wherein said upper and lower housings are formed of a transparent polycarbonate material, such that a level of the liquid in the upper and lower containers may be observed through the upper sidewall and the lower sidewall.
22. The freestanding portable filtration device according to Claim 21, further comprising control means for controlling operation of said light source.